

NEW YORK TIMES

4 July 1984

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE A2

'Iran-Iraq War Is Reported to Intensify After a Lull

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, July 3 — United States intelligence analysts said today that military action in the Iran-Iraq war had intensified after a lull of about a month, and they speculated that Iran might be on the verge of a long-expected offensive.

The analysts said the opposing sides had engaged in more and larger skirmishes on the Basra front since the holy month of Ramadan had ended.

More air action has also been reported, the analysts said, not only Iraqi attacks on shipping in the Persian Gulf but also sorties by both sides. But the analysts said they had no confirmation of reports that Iraq had sunk oil tankers carrying oil from Iran.

Iran has brought up more regular troops to the front, the analysts said, and has moved more ammunition and supplies into offensive positions. In response, they said, Iraq has moved more troops into battle positions.

The analysts put Iranian troops on or near the frontline at about 250,000 compared with 200,000 a month ago. There were then also an equal number of revolutionary guards, the analysts said, but they have been reorganized, making a new estimate difficult.

They said many Iranian officers had been replaced after field commanders were recalled to Teheran. The analysts doubted that a purge had taken place, but said fresh commanders had been dispatched to the front.

According to dispatches from Teheran today, Iranian leaders have denied that the offensive had been delayed because of internal bickering.

"Recent repeated reports of discord among Iranian leaders on the issue of the war are nothing but illusions," the Government press agency said.

On the ground, the wetlands in the Basra area have dried out and made it

easier for military vehicles and foot soldiers to move. The analysts suggested that this would favor Iran rather than Iraq, which is on the defensive.

About a month ago, the analysts, after having seen several false starts, said the offensive threatened by Iran might have been canceled. Both Iran and Iraq seemed then to be putting out peace feelers, although those signs were ambiguous.

Today the analysts said the hints of peace seemed to have faded. They speculated that an offensive might begin around July 5 or 6, at the time of another Islamic holy day. But they noted the number of times before that the offensive had been expected.

The objective for the Iranians, given

the direction of troop and supply movements from Dizful, was the Iraqi defensive position north of Basra, the analysts said. But whether Iran will seek to capture Basra or to encircle it is unclear, they said.

Reagan Administration officials have become concerned that Iranian forces, after taking Basra or bypassing the city, may turn south and head toward Kuwait. It is only 30 miles from Basra to the Kuwaiti border.

The officials said a team from the Central Command, the former Rapid Deployment Force, has surveyed Kuwaiti military requirements. The results of the trip are reported still under study, but the Administration recently approved an \$82 million package to improve Kuwait's air defenses.